areas and 5.470 persons in urban areas. This translates into 31.27% of families or 58.37 million families below the poverty line in 1993-94. The remaining 128.31 million families were above the poverty line Separate estimates for rich and middle class are not available.

(c) The average per capita monthly consumption of people below the poverty line in 1993-94 was Rs. 159.18 in rural areas and Rs. 212.82 in urban areas as compared to Rs. 354.01 and Rs. 575.36 in rural and urban areas respectively for people above the poverty line. Separate estimates for ruch and middle class are not available.

Planning Commission's inability to provide projection

2422. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has expressed its inability to provide the projections for plan and non-plan revenue expenditure of States by March, 2000 to 11th Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) what Are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The Finance Commission is an independent constitutional body, entitled to recommend Central transfers to states based on its own projections of the revenue and expenditure of states.

Cause of Industrial Backwardness in Meghalaya

2423. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of entrepreneurship, infrastructure deficiency,